UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/25748
10 May 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 10 MAY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CROATIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The Croatian Government is extremely disturbed by the recent news about the fighting around the town of Mostar. The Republic of Croatia firmly supports the Vance-Owen peace plan as well as all attempts to restore the peace process on the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Furthermore it denounces renewed hostilities between members of the Croatian Defense Council (HVO) forces and the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina is calling for an immediate cease-fire. These hostilities regardless of why and how they have been provoked, are seriously deteriorating the chances for a successful implementation of the peace plan.

The Republic of Croatia is aware that tragic clashes between Croatian and Muslim forces are overshadowing the fact that the Serbian aggression against the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina still remains unchallenged and continues to pose the biggest threat to the Muslim and Croatian people living in that republic. These outbreaks of violence continue to endanger the lives and property of the civilian population and once again frustrate the efforts of the international community to force the Serbian side to accept and implement the peace plan.

We believe that both sides should be aware of the consequences of their actions and share responsibility for the hostilities. The offensive by Muslim forces on the Croatian inhabited towns of Jablanica and Konjic, did not draw enough attention from the Security Council or the international press. Fikret Abdic, a member of the Presidency of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina who gained the biggest support from Muslim voters in Bosnia and Herzegovina, said in his public address on 10 May 1993, that "all those Muslims who object that the Vance-Owen plan was made at the expense of the Muslim people and who want to redraw the plan by force, work d rectly against the Muslim people". Mr. Abdic also stressed that "the Vance-Owen plan for the resolution of crisis in Bosnia and Herzegovina has no alternative".

While expressing our utmost concern for the precarious situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, I have the honour to inform you that the Croatian Government welcomes the cease-fire between Croatian and Muslim forces that has been established on 10 May 1993 at 1800 hours local time on the orders given by the President of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Alija Izetbegovic and the leader of the Bosnian Croats, Mate Boban.

My Government particularly underlines and welcomes the exchange of letters between Mr. Izetbegovic and Mr. Boban, through which they have agreed to start implementing the agreement on the functioning of the local authorities on a proportional basis and in accordance with the Vance-Owen peace plan and the joint statement of the two sides in Zagreb on 25 April 1993. My Government believes that the immediate implementation of these elements of the Vance-Owen plan between the Croat and Muslim people in their respective provinces is the way to overcome these tragic misunderstandings in the future.

As we have seen in the case of recent developments in Mostar and other areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina, any hesitation or delay to implement the Vance-Owen plan is making the peace process even more complicated. My Government therefore believes that the Security Council should immediately endorse the Vance-Owen peace plan and prepare measures for the enforcement of the plan.

I request your kind assistance in distributing this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mario NOBILO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative